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A Calendar

Memorial Inscriptions

Collected in the State of Maryland

The Maryland Society

75

=4020 (1983)

Colonial Dames of America.

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Edited by

Melen West Ridgely,

Author of

"The Old Brick Churches of Maryland."



Preface, intro. Chap. 1, 4 illustration.

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Preface.

In offering this Calendar of Memorial Inscription to the public, I wish to offer a caution with it. Persons engaged upon historical research know how imprudent it is to follow any one authority before first tracing up his methods of obtaining hls information. This is especially applicable in the matter of collecting inscriptions. I have found that where two or three persons have handed in the same, each vouching for its correctness, some difference is bound to occur.

No one, who has not tried it, can have any conception of how much the copyist has to be prepared for, in order to give the inscriptions exactly. First there are the capitals in unexpected places, then there is the arbitrary mode of spelling, and the ye and ys for the and this; and then the numerals. where the 4 and 1, the 5, 3 and 8, or the 7 and 9 are often mistaken for each other. The matter of arranging the lines is another consideration, also the abrevations, which are often according to no modern rule. Knowing all these things, I have sought, wherever it has been impossible by actual investigation to verify the details about which my authorities differ, to give both versions, especially where the dates are concerned. The location, which has sometimes been exactly given, and the approximate dates are the principal things to lead persons in search of some particular ancestor, to find the memorial that will give them what they want. This Calendar, therefore stands in the position of a sign-post showing the way.

If this caution is kept in mind, the book will fill a need that has long been felt in the community; for it will help to simplify the work of the Maryland genealogist, be he amateur, or be he fully armed with all the musty documents of

the fraternity.

Introduction.

An Irishman who farmed a portion of an old Maryland estate was one day discovered ploughing up the ancient family burying-ground. Upon being expostulated with by a much outraged neighbor, he replied: "Shure an there oughtn't to be no cimiteries in the counthry any how, people ought to be buried at the church." Pat little knew and as little cared that he was attacking one of Maryland's time honored customs, or infringing the law made for its protection.

In the history of the early settlements along the Chesapeake and its tributaries, there is found a continuity of English customs adapted to new conditions; and during the sixty years that elapsed between the arrival of the first colonists and the historic period of church building in Maryland, manorial customs in modes of sepulture prevailed. In fact the burial of the dead on the home plantation—or near the chapel of the Lord of the Manor, as we have reason to believe was the habit among the Catholics—continued even after the enactment of laws for the building of churches or the walling in of church yards.

Some of the most interesting monuments of bye-gone days have been found on out-of-the-way farms, and even where monuments are wanting, tradition often indicates the spot where some manor-lord or colonial governor lies buried. The various stones, tablets and traditions, still remaining, serve to revive much of Maryland's primitive social life. Had it not been for the vandalism of the ignorant and the indifference of others, more might now be found to supply missing links in county records, or to fill the gaps in carelessly kept parish registers.

Nearly eighteen years ago the Maryland Historical Society, which in early days was composed entirely of men, adopted the following resolution presented by Rev. George A. Leakin:

Whereas, there yet remain in the State of Maryland numerous burial grounds, public and private, containing Epitaphs of colonial citizens who have rendered valuable service in various official positions or in the faithful discharge of social and domestic duties; and it being very desirable

that such names be kept from obliteration;—Resolved that the Maryland Historical Society appoint a Committee of Seven (with the power to fill vacancies) who shall report to a subsequent meeting the expediency of enlisting the aid of Historical Societies in the Counties, Local Committees, the Public Press and Ministers of different denominations, with the view of obtaining such names for permanent preservation in the Archives of this Society."

The committee of seven was appointed, but its worthy efforts were without result; the probable excuse being that it had been found impossible to arouse sufficient general interest to carry it into effect. As a matter of fact man's helpmeet woman was not called upon to lend her aid. Her fecundity of resource, her drill in matters of detail and above all her well known persistency, of which the "Importunate Widow" furnishes the type, were completely ignored.

When, however, the Maryland Society of the Colonial Dames of America announced itself ready to undertake the work, the masculine body, through some of its members, gave cordial encouragement to the enterprise of the "Dames."

The facts collected in this book are the result of an investigation set on foot by the latter, in hope that a more general knowledge of such things might quicken an interest in the preservation of our ancient monuments and places of burial. Through its "Memorial Committee," which has had the work in charge, much has already been done in a quiet way, by seeking out the descendants of the departed and obtaining their co-operation in the rescue of isolated stones. The latter have been found in fields, by the road-side and beneath dwellings, also in use as doorsteps or as flagstones with the incriptions turned under. By the efforts of the committee some of these have been removed to the nearest church-yard, where they stand a better chance of remaining unmolested, while others have been restored, railed-in or otherwise protected.

To the workers themselves, who have been delegated to explore the counties, it has proved a revelation indeed to discover, so near home, unsuspected nooks and corners of interest left undisturbed by the march of progress. It is in these sequestered neighborhoods that the work of the Memorial Committee has aroused the keenest interest and met with the most cordial response. By the assistance of both men and women recruits, thickets have been penetrated, traditionary

graveyards traced, shattered tablets fitted together and inscriptions copied or verified.

The names of the Memorial Committee are as follows:

MRS. MATTHEW ATKINSON.
MRS. ROBERT ATKINSON.

Mrs. James Bateman.

MRS. BELKNAP.

MRS. EUGENE BLACKFORD. MRS. A. H. BLACKISTON.

MISS IDA BRENT.

MRS. TRACY BROWNE.

MRS. ROBERDEAU BUCHANAN.

Mrs. Charles Baltimore Calvert.

*Mrs. Duncan Campbell.

MISS CAMPBELL.

MISS MARY C. CARTER.

MRS. THOMAS C. CHATARD.

MRS. BURTON CRANE, nee SMITH.

MISS DAVES.

MISS MARY DAVIS.

MISS ELLA LORAINE DORSEY.

MISS ISABEL EARLE.

MRS. ALEX. EARLY.

MRS. CHARLES GIBSON.

MRS. WM. H. GILL.

MRS. WM. GOLDSBOROUGH.

MRS. MONTE GRIFFITH.

MRS. GEORGE W. S. HALL.

Mrs. Wm. T. Hamilton.

Mrs. K. Kearney Henry.

*Mrs. O. Horsey (Hon. Member)

MRS. ROBERT HINCKLEY.

Mrs. Harry P. Huse. Mrs. J. J. Jackson.

MRS. PLOWDEN JENKINS.

MRS. J. KINEAR.

*Miss Virginia King. Mrs. Frederick von Kapff.

MISS MARGARET LEAKIN.

MISS ELIZABETH LIGON.

Mrs. John M. Littig.

MRS. LLOYD LOWNDES. MRS. GUSTAV LURMAN.

MISS FLORENCE MACKUBIN.

Mrs. John R. Magruder.

*Mrs. John Mullan.

MRS. W. C. NICHOLAS.

MRS. JULIANA T. PACA.

MISS MARY S. W. PEARRE. MRS. WM. S. POWELL.

MISS ANNA M. POLK.

MRS. JOHN RIDGELY of H.

*Mrs. John Ritchie.

MISS LOUISA ROBINSON.

MRS. HENRY ROGERS.

Mrs. C. Lyon Rogers.

MRS. ALBERT L. SIOUSSAT.

MISS V. McBlair Smith.

MISS MARY E. STEUART. MISS HENRIETTA STEUART.

MISS MARY TILGHMAN.

MRS. RIDGELY OF H, General Chairman.

MRS. BATEMAN-Talbot County.

MRS. CALVERT-Prince George's County.

MRS. GILL-Baltimore County.

MRS. HAMILTON-Washington County.

MISS LIGON—Baltimore County.

MISS MACKUBIN-Anne Arundel County.

MISS PEARRE-District of Columbia.

*Mrs. RITCHIE—Frederick County.

MRS. C. LYON ROGERS-Baltimore County.

MRS. SIOUSSAT-St. Mary's and Calvert Counties.

Chairmen of Sub-Committees.

^{*}Deceased.

CHAPTER I.

Our sister colony of Plymouth has been more careful of early records, and in the preservation of local traditions than we have been in Maryland; for not only has the number been kept of those who succumbed to the hardships of the first winter, but a knowledge of the exact spot, where the martyrs of the expedition were buried, has been handed down to posterity. Others of their dead were laid around the rough log fort erected on the hill overlooking the town and harbor of Plymouth and used also as a place of worship. In fact this custom prevailed until days of comparative security, when the colonists sought new centers of settlement. Burial Hill remains to this day, with a large number of eighteenth century gravestones to prove its title to that name, while a tablet marks the site of the log building which served the double purpose of meeting-house and fort.

Although we of Maryland can show no monument to indicate the spot where our first settlers were buried, we have our traditions about the Indian building converted by them into a Christian Chapel; and Mr. James W. Thomas, an antiquarian who has given much time to the subject has drawn a map showing where its successor stood. Around this chapel was "Ye ordinary burying place in St. Maries Chapell Yard," alluded to in John Lloyd's will, dated 1658. This was the earliest of which we have any record. As late as 1683, about fifty years after the landing of the Maryland Pilgrims, we find the following provisions, made apparently for a new grave yard:

"To the Hon'ble Secretaries of the Providence:

These:

"Ordered and granted by his lordship in council that what quantity of land shall be thought necessary to be laid out for the Chapell, Statehouse and Burying place at the City of St. Maries shall (to save any man's particular Right and Property there whole and entire) be supplied by some other of his lordship's land thereunto contiguous, least prejudicial to his Lordship."

This land at least has been identified, for the State House was converted into an Episcopal Church at the time of its establishment in the province, and was standing till the year 1829. Near its site, which within recent years has been

marked by low granite pillars, a subterranean vault was discovered where tradition says a Colonial Governor is buried. The question has been settled beyond a doubt, that this was Sir Lionel Copley, the first Royal Governor. He was sent over in 1691, and died in less than two years after his arrival, and it is a matter of record that he and his wife are buried in a vault at St. Mary's.

The gravestone of the earliest date yet found in Maryland lies in Anne Arundel County, that section of the Province which in 1649-1650 saw the arrival of the Puritans, who fleeing from persecution in Virginia, soon became conspicuous in This record-breaker records the virtues of a public affairs. wife and "mother deare", who ran her race and in 1665 was laid to rest. Near it lies a memorial to Christopher Birkhead, who died in 1676. For more than two hundred years these stones lay at "Birkhead's Meadows". This was doubtless a portion of the tract of 1300 acres confirmed to Christopher Birkhead in 1666, and possibly lay near the house of Abraham Birkhead, the scene of one of the many triumphs of George Fox, the Quaker, by whom the "Speaker of the Assembly was convinced." In 1888 the Birkhead tombstones were moved to St. James Parish Churchyard and their scanty history shows a custom in Maryland-namely that of burying the dead in private grounds—which has been the cause why so few graves from remote times have been preserved. Where nearly every freeman, whether a gentleman adventurer or otherwise, was a "Planter", his home cut off from those of his kind, often by miles of territory, became the nucleus of a small community like the castle of some feudal lord. What more natural than that he should provide a place of burial for members of his family and his dependents, which sacred spot by the lapse of time and change of ownership, was first neglected, then forgotten and finally lost.

Out of the twenty-seven seventeenth-century tombstones so far discovered and recorded by the Memorial Committee of the Maryland Society of the Colonial Dames of America, ten have come to light in Anne Arundel County alone; for besides those of the Birkheads, we find memorials to Maj. Thomas Francis in 1685, to Col. William Burgess in 1686—both of whom held, among other offices, that of Councillor,

Colonel Burgess having also served as Deputy Governor and as General of the military forces of the Province—to his son William and his daughter Anne, 1698 and 1697; to Col. Nicholas Greenberry, who was Keeper of the Great Seal, acting temporarily as Governor upon the death of Sir Lionel Copley, besides filling other positions of honor and trust, 1697; to his wife, Anne, 1698, and to his son-in-law, Henry Ridgely, 1699. The latter was son of the Councillor of the same name. Nicholas Gassaway, who died the same year, completes the number.

An unique specimen of this kind of memorial is to be found in St. Mary's County. The inscription, which is entirely in Latin, records the name of Francis Sourton, who died in 1679, and a portion of it forms a border around the edge of the stone. It was exhumed in 1886 by the sexton of Old Poplar Hill or St. George's Church, while digging a grave, and the Rector Rev. Maurice Vaughan, reported the discovery to the Maryland Historical Society shortly afterward, but nothing was done until about the year 1896, when through the instrumentality of the late Mr. Buck, Rector of Rock Creek Parish, Washington, D. C., it was removed to the East wall of the vestry room. It is in a fairly good state of preservation, but the meaning of the heraldic devices that adorn its lower half, has so far defied the skill of those who are supposed to be proficient in the ancient art of heraldry.

Two stones, which originally lay in Calvert County, but which by the subsequent extension of St. Mary's boundaries, are to be found at present in the latter section, carry us back to some of the dramatic incidents of Maryland history. That of Christopher Rouseby, who died in 1684, opens to us a chapter which reveals the jealousy existing between the King's collectors of revenue and those of the Lord Proprietary, culminating in the death of Christopher Rouseby, the King's officer, at the hands of George Talbot, "Lord of the Northern Marshes." Rouseby's tomb, which records also the death of his brother John, in 1685, lies on the St. Mary's side of the Patuxent, across the river from the historic seat of the family, "Rouseby Hall."

Maj. Thomas Truman is the other figure on this background of the past. He left no male descendants to perpetuate his name or to keep his memory green, but his impeachment in 1676 for the barbarous murder of five indians, his subsequent release from confinement, and his restoration in 1684—the year before his death—to posts of honor under his Lordship's government, all come back to us at the mention of his place of sepulture. Near him lie his wife Mary, who died in 1686; his brother Nathaniel Truman, Commissioner for the Peace in 1675-1676, who departed this life 1678; his brother James, who died in 1672, and other members of his family, whose deaths occurred during the following century.

James Truman in his will dated 1672, mentions his daughters Martha, Mary and Elizabeth, whom he left to the care of his two brothers in case of his widow's marriage. This lady was named Anne, and her tomb, found after much diligent search on a farm near Prince Frederick, Calvert County, shows that she consoled herself for her loss by becoming the wife of Robert Skinner, "Gent." She died at the age of 75, having lived, as her tomb-stones imforms us, near half that time a widow.

A monument to Truman's fellow-councillor, Col. William Stevens, dated 1687, was exhumed by the Rev. Dr. Vallandigan, of Newark, Delaware, in 1853. It stands in a lonely position near the Pocomoke River, in Somerset County. Another Eastern Shore stone which before long may be difficult to locate is that of Francis Butler, Gent., who, elevated to the post of High Sheriff of Talbot Couniy shortly after his arrival in Maryland, lived but a few months to enjoy the honors of his position. He was drowned in Michael's River in the year 1689.

In the private burying ground at Wye House, Talbot County, which so far is the only one where the dead of two centuries repose side by side with their descendants of the sixth or seventh generation, Col. Philemon Lloyd, one of our well-known dignataries, was buried in 1685, his wife, a namesake of the unfortunate Queen Henrietta Maria, following him in 1697. Three daughters, all of whom died before 1695, are buried there also. The oldest stone in this graveyard is that of Capt. James Strong, of Stepney, in the County of Middlesex. Above the inscription is a coat-of-arms in which palmer shells and crosslets fitchee are con-

spicuous. As an offset to this "boast of heraldry" the inevitable skull and cross-bones follow.

At the Hermitage, Queen Anne County, lie the remains of Dr. Richard Tilghman, the progenitor of the Tilghman family, also those of his wife Mary Foxley. He died in 1675 and she survived him twenty years. The graveyard is kept in good order and the names of those buried there furnish an interesting list of Tilghmans who distinguished themselves in their day and generation.

One Stone that stands, not only as a memorial to a seventeenth century character, but as a monument to a daughter's filial piety, is that of Thomas Impey, a native of Hartfordshire, who died in 1686. It is to be found on the farm of the late James Hazlett in the Bay Hundred District, Talbot County, having been erected in 1752 according to provisions made in the will of his daughter, Mary Dawson.

Bennett's Point, once the property of Richard Bennett the third—the son by a first marriage of Henrietta Maria, whom we have mentioned as ancestress of the Lloyds of Wye—has the remains of a graveyard, which we notice here on account of the fragmentary tablet that lies amidst the debris of mortuary remains of a latter generation. It commemorates the death of a certain Capt Thomas Green, Master Mariner of the Town of Newcastle on Lyne, Commander of the "Loving Friendship", who died at sea, presumedly the 17th of August, 1674.

A seventeenth century character, whose monument is not visible, was George Robins, who settled in Talbot County in 1670, upon a tract of a thousand acres, which came to him under the name of "Job's Content", but descended to posterity as "Peach Blossom". On this place which has passed into the hands of strangers, and about a stone's throw from the barn, is a promiscuous heap, where young trees and bushes seem to have thriven in spite of the rival claims of marble, brick and stone. A broken arch, supporting the mass on one side, seems to have served the same purpose as a bit of wreck on a sandy beach, which catches and holds what time and tide waft in its direction. Under this drift of the centuries George Robins lies, while several memorials to

his descendants, one of which shows a finely executed escutcheon, border the mortuary pile.

The last seventeenth century tombstone we have to record at present is that of Capt. James Murphy, who perpetuated the title of one of the first tracts of land laid out in Talbot County. He died in 1698 and was buried on Rich Neck, a few miles from St. Michael's.

Another monument which would increase our number to twenty-eight, if it were a gravestone, is that of Augustine Herman, which of late years has been inserted in the wall of the house on his "Manour Plantation", overlooking the Bohemia River. He speaks of it in his will as his "Monument Stone", and it was probably prepared in his life-time, for it does not record his death, which occurred about the year 1686. We do not know whether it ever marked his grave—a spot impossible to identify at present—and although it was used by a latter generation as a door to a vault, it can hardly be considered a memorial of anything but what is represented on its surface:

AVGVTINE HERMEN,
Bohemian,
THE FIRST FOVNDER,
seater of Behemea Manner,
ANNO, 1661.

THE 17TH CENTURY INSCRIPTIONS.

THE TWO BIRKHEAD STONES:

This Register is for her bones
Her fame is more perpetual than ye stones
and Stil her Vertues through her life be gone
Shall live when earthly monuments are none.
Who reading this can chuse but drop a teare
For such a wife & such a Mother deare.
She ran her race & now is laid to rest
& Allalugia singes among the blest.

1665

Here lyeth the body of Major Thomas Francies who deceased ye 19 March Anno 1685 Aged 42 years.

"Tho' now in Silence I am lowly laid
Ha! 'tis that place for mortalls made.
O ther'fore doe not thou thyself more greive
Mourne ye noe more doe yeself Releive
And then in time I hope you'l plainly see
Such future Comforts as are blessing mee.
For tho' grim death thought fitt to part us
Rejoyce & think that wee shall once appear
At that great day when all shall sumonds be
None to be Exempt'd in this Eternitie.
Cause then itt soe greive ye no more
In fear that God should the Afflict most sore
Even to death and all to Let you see
Such greives to him offencive bee."

Here lyeth ye body of Wm. Burgess Esq who departed this life on ye 24 day of Janu Anno Domini 1686 Aged about 64 yrs. Leaving his dear beloved wife Ursuhla & Eleven children viz: seven sons and four daughters and 8 grand-children. In his life time he was a member of His Lordships Counsell of Estate, One of his Lordships deputy Governours a Justice of ye High Provincial Court Collon of a Regiment of the trained Guards and sometime Generall of all the Military forces of this Province. His loving wife Ursulah his Execut. in testimony of her true respect and due regard to the worthy deserts of her dear departed husband, hath erected this Memorial.

Here lyeth the Body of William Burgess the eldest son that coll. William Burgess had by his Dear and Loveing wife Ursella, he departed this life the 28th Day of June in the year of his age, Anno Domini 1698.

Here lyeth Interred ye Body of Anne the wife of Thomas Sparrow daughter of William Burgess and Ursulla his wife, who was born on Thursday the 7th of Oct. 1680 Married on Tuesday ye 8th June 1697 Sickened the 25th day of ye same month and dyed on Sunday ye 25 of July 1697. This stone is erected as a Lasting Memorial of the person above Mentioned, by her surviving husband Mr. Thomas Sparrow.

Here lieth Interred The Body of Colln Nicholas Greenberry Esqr who departed this Life The 17th Day of December 1697 Actatis Suae 70

Here Lieth Interred The Body of Mrs. Ann Greenberry who Departed This Life The 27th Day of April 1898 Aetatis Suae 50.

Here Lyeth the body of Mr. Henry Ridgely who was borne the 3rd of October 1669 and departed this life on ye 19th day of March 1699.

Here Lyeth Interred The Body of Nicholas Gassaway Son of Coll. Nicholas Gassaway who Departed This Life 10 Day of March Anno Domi. 1699 And In The 31 Year of His Age.

Here lyeth the Body of Xphr. Rousbie Esquire who was taken out of this World by A voilent Death received on Board his Majesty's Ship the Quaker Ketch, Capt. Thos. Allen Commandr. the last day of Octr. 1684 and alsoe of Mr. John Rousbie his brother who departed this natural(l) Life on Board theShip Baltemore Being arrived in Patuxon River the first day of February 1685.

Here lyeth the body of James Truman, Gent. who died the 7th of August 1672 being aged 50 years.

Here lyeth the body of Thomas Truman Esqr. who died the 6th day of December Anno. 1685. Aged 60 years. "The Memory of the Just is Blessed." Prov. ye 10ch. & ye 7th yerse.

Here lyeth the body of Nathaniel Truman, Gent. who died the 4th of March 1678 being aged....years.

Here lyeth the body of Mary, wife and Relict of Thomas Truman Esqr. who died the 6th of July 1686. Agen 52 years.

Francis Sourton, Anglo-Devon Francisci Filius Veritas Evangelical Atque Ecclesiastes, Heic Sedulus Vita Rrevi & Saepius Aflicta Functus est Sep. 1679.

N. B.—The legend following the above is much defaced by time. A version of it, translated, reads as follows;

"And thou reader, living in the Lord Jesus Christ, keep the faith, and thou also though dead shalt live."

Here lyeth the Body of William Stevens Esq. Who departed this life the 23rd day of December 1687 Aged 57 years. He was 22 years Judge of this County Court. One of his Lordship's Councill and one of the the Deputy Lieutenants of this Province of Maryland. "Vivit Post Funera Virtus."

Here lyeth immured ye bodye of Francis Butler, Gent, son of Rhoderick Butler, Gent, who was unfortunately drowned in St. Michael's River, the 3rd Mar. 1689, aged 42 years or thereabout, Momento Mori.

AT WYE, TALBOT CO.

Here lyeth Interred the Body of Capt. James Strong of Stepney in the County of Midd: Marrine, second son of Capt. Petter Strong. Departed this life y 8 day of Jan. 1684.

A.....yeare 2 months XI dayes. Le.....one Son.....on. Daught...

"The memory of ye..st is Blessed"

This stone is cracked in six places and restored.

Here li's inter'd the Body of Coll Philemon Lloyd, the son of E. Lloyd & Alice his wife, who died the 22d of June 1685 in the 39th year of his age leaving 3 sons and 7 daughters All by his beloved wife Henrietta Maria.

"[No] more than this the Author says
[B]ut leaves his life to speak his praise."

Memento Mori.

This stone is in three pieces restored.

Shee that now takes her Rest within this tomb Had Rachell's face and Lea's fruitful womb Abigall's wisdom *Lydea's* faithful heart With Martha's care and Mary's better part.

Who Died The 21st Day of M............Dom. 1697 Aged 50 years Months 23 Dayes. To whose Memory Richard (Bennett) Dedicates this Tomb.

Most of the lines are incomplete at the end, but have been filled in here to give the sense.

Jane, Mary and Elizabeth, daughters of the above, died respectively in 1690, 1690 and 1694.

The tomb-stone of Mrs. Henrietta Maria Neale is decorated by two armorial lozenges above, and skull and cross-bones below. Bennett and Neale are represented on the one and Lloyd and Neale on the other.

3477-251 Lot-38 At the "Hermitage," a flat slab is indicated as covering the spot where the first Tilghman lies. The inscription has become obliterated. It ran pretty much as follows:

"Always remember
the 5th of November
But Doe not forgett
Death will have no lett
Consider thy end
and thy time well spend
and soe shalt thou have
a crown in thy grave."
Vale.

Ita dixit Richardus tilghmanus B. M.

In artique chirugii
Magister
qui sub hoc tumulo
Sepultus est
Obiit Janu 7mo Anno
1675.

The exact wording of the inscription on Capt. Murphy's tomb has not yet been obtained. He died in 1698.













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